

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (currently amended): A caster for ~~an item~~ luggage including a retractable portion, said caster comprising:

a caster frame having a rod attached to said retractable portion of the luggage;

a wheel rotatably mounted to said caster frame; and

said wheel and said caster frame being (i) freely rotatable about an axis of rotation about the rod generally perpendicular to an axis of rotation of said wheel mounted in said caster frame when said wheel bears against a surface in a first position and (ii) longitudinally movable by the rod to automatically orient in a predetermined position different from the first position when said wheel is not bearing against said surface.

Claim 35 (original): The caster of Claim 34, wherein

said retractable portion including guiding means, a portion of said caster frame being guided by said guiding means when said wheel is lifted from said surface so as to position said caster frame in said predetermined position.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The caster of Claim 35, wherein

said rod extending from said wheel through said guiding means, said rod including a pin; and

said guiding means being constructed and arranged for guiding said pin to orient said wheel and said wheel frame in said predetermined position.

Claim 37 (original): The caster of Claim 35, wherein

said guiding means has a V-shape cross-section for guiding said pin.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The caster of Claim 37, wherein

said retractable portion includes a biasing means to bias said wheel and said caster frame automatically into said predetermined position when said wheel is not bearing against said surface.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The caster of Claim 34, wherein

said caster frame includes (i) a swivel and (ii) a wheel frame connecting said swivel with said wheel, said wheel frame being pivotably mounted to said swivel.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A caster for ~~an item~~ luggage, said caster comprising:

a caster frame having a rod rotatably attached to said luggage ~~item~~;

a wheel axially rotatably mounted to said caster frame, said wheel having an axis of rotation generally perpendicular to an axis of rotation of said caster frame about the rod; and

said caster frame being (i) freely rotatable about its axis of rotation about the rod when said wheel bears against a surface in a first position and (ii) longitudinally movable

by the rod to automatically orient in a predetermined position different from the first position when said wheel is not bearing against said surface.

Claim 41 (original): The caster of Claim 40, wherein

said item includes guiding means, a portion of said caster frame being guided by said guiding means when said wheel is lifted from said surface so as to position said caster frame in said predetermined position.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The caster of Claim 41, wherein

said rod extending from said wheel through said guiding means, said rod including a pin; and

said guiding means being constructed and arranged for guiding said pin to orient said wheel and said caster frame in said predetermined position.

Claim 43 (original): The caster of Claim 42, wherein

said guiding means has a V-shape cross-section for guiding said pin.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The caster of Claim 43, wherein

said guiding means includes a biasing means to bias said wheel and said wheel frame automatically into said predetermined position when said wheel is not bearing against said surface.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The caster of Claim 40, wherein

said caster frame includes (i) a swivel and (ii) a wheel frame connecting said swivel with said wheel, said wheel frame being pivotably mounted to said swivel.

Claims 46 and 47 (canceled)